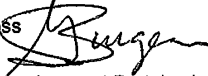


Memorandum



Date: December 20, 2006

To: Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager 

Subject: Launch of new Development Portal -- *buildit.miamidade.gov*

I am pleased to announce the launch of the new web portal, <http://buildit.miamidade.gov>, an online one-stop for building-related matters. Last year, Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Commissioner Natacha Seljas, as Chair of the Infrastructure and Land Use Committee, made the overhaul of the permitting and land use process in Miami-Dade County a top priority, announcing a series of initiatives to address both short and long term needs. Specifically, staff was directed to review existing permitting and land use processes and identify ways to streamline them. A review completed by the Office of Strategic Business Management lead to several recommendations including the creation of the Buildit portal.

The Buildit portal brings together in one location, the news, tools and resources used by the building community. From those engaged in the development of large properties to the homeowner installing a new backyard fence, the Buildit portal provides information and tools to help bridge the permitting and land use processes. Some of its features include a central location for building code compliance legislation, an online municipality lookup tool to find out what jurisdiction(s) have a role in a particular project and easy access to online tools for scheduling building inspections and paying plan and permit fees.

The Buildit portal provides its visitors a "top down" view of the permitting and land use processes in the County and a platform from which participating groups and government organizations can work together to develop a more efficient permitting and land use process. The portal would not be a reality today without the active collaboration of the County departments that provide building-related services, including Building Code Compliance, Building, Environmental Resources Management, Fire Rescue, Planning & Zoning, Property Appraiser, Public Works, Water and Sewer, as well as the support of the Government Information Center and the Enterprise Technology Services Departments. This collaborative development effort also included key members of our customer base, such as real estate professionals and the Latin Builder's Association. By engaging them in this process, we have produced a product that meets their unique needs.

While I am very excited about the launch of this portal, I am more excited about what is to come. Plans are already underway to further develop more Buildit portal features including enhanced GIS technology that contain enriched layers of information for better mapping, more extensive historical data and even measurement tools.

Making government information easy to understand and readily accessible to our residents and businesses can be challenging. But the Buildit portal will go a long way towards making the permitting and land use process more customer-centric. If you need additional information regarding this e-government initiative, please contact Judi Zito, Director, Government Information Center at 305-375-2512.

Cc: Assistant County Managers
Department Directors